

Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project
DHHS Internal Planning Meeting
8/27/2007

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Jody Riddles, DAAS
Suzanne Merrill, DAAS
Denise Rogers, DAAS
Heather Burkhardt, DAAS
Lisa Jackson, DMH
Tara Heasley, DMH
Vivian Leon, DMH
Dr. Aleck Myers, DMH
Ann Ellers, Office of LTSS
Carol Potter, DVRS

Julia Bick, DHHS Housing
Heather Dominique, DHHS
Jennifer Olson, DHHS
Larry Swabe, NCCDD
Jill Rushing, NCCDD
Holly Riddle, NCCDD
Gina Rutherford, DMA
Tara Larson, DMA
Larry Nason, DMA
Lorie Williams, DMA

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to orient DHHS staff to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) project components and deliverables, and to outline the organizational structure for the project.

Organizational Structure

Discussion focused on the role of consumers and families, advocacy groups, providers, and DHHS staff in the composition of the committees and workgroups. The group agreed to the following structure:

Executive Committee

Purpose: To set policy and resolve issues.

Members: Chair, DHHS Asst. Secretary
Grant director
DMA representative
Advisory committee representatives (1 provider, 1 advocate)
State workgroup representative
DAA representative
DMH representative
DVRS representative
Consumer representatives (4 individuals from DD, physical, MH, and aging populations)

Advisory Committee

Purpose: To provide stakeholder input toward structuring benefits and service deliveries that address the needs of the consumers. This is expected to be the largest committee. Members may choose to also participate in the workgroups.

Members: Consumers and their families (60%)
Advocacy groups including:
AAA
Carolina Legal Association
Centers for Independent Living
Coalition on Aging
Local Departments of Social Services
Friends of Residents
Health Care Facilities Association
Home Care Association
ICF/MR Council
Local Management Entities
Long Term Care Regional Ombudsman
Mental Health Consumers Association
MRA
NAMI
State CFAC
Providers, including representatives from the NC Provider Council

State Workgroup

Purpose: To develop the operational protocol, implement the benefit package, and respond to the administrative requirements for the project.

Members: Representatives from:
DAA
DHHS Housing
DMA
DMH
DVRs
NCCDD
Systems Transformation Grant

Workgroups

Participant Recruitment/Enrollment/Informed Consent and Guardianship
Outreach, Marketing, and Education
Benefits and Services/Consumer Supports/Self-direction
Quality Assurance/Continuity of Care (post-evaluation)
Housing (Chaired by Julia Bick and staffed by existing committees)
Provider Issues (see also **Other Issues** below)

Orientation Meetings

Orientation meetings should be scheduled with consumers and advocacy groups as an educational aid to serving on the advisory committee. These meeting should be held in advance of the committee meetings and should continue throughout the course of the project. Funding may be available through partnerships with the DD Council, the MH Council, and the Council on Aging to reimburse participants for travel.

The group discussed methods for recruitment. It was suggested that each advocacy group and state agency as well as DSS and LMEs could recruit 5 consumers. It was also suggested that the consumers who participated with the Transformation Grant might be approached to participate with the MFP project.

The group agreed that orientation meetings should be scheduled regionally to ensure that advisory committee members would not be adversely affected by travel.

Other Issues

Provider Issues

The group identified a number of issues that should be addressed before the project proceeds much further. Some of the issues that need to be resolved include:

- Will vacated beds be closed forever?
- What other options will be available to providers and how will they be coordinated?
- How much money will actually “follow” the person?

The group agreed that it was important that someone of authority from the Executive Committee should address these issues and attend the Provider Issues Workgroup to address other policy issues that may arise.

Piedmont Project

Holly Riddle asked if the MFP project would include Piedmont Waiver participants.

Case Studies

Holly Riddle expressed interest in creating a small group (fewer than 10 members) to work on a “real life” case study, which could be used to provide feedback on actual issues and barriers that arise with service delivery, benefit components, etc. This would also provide an opportunity to document a best practice approach for the project.

Housing

Julia Bick raised the issue that the biggest challenge to the implementation of the benefit package will be finding appropriate housing.

Next Steps

A kick-off meeting has been scheduled for 9/17/2007 at the Royal Banquet Conference Center to coincide with a visit from MaryBeth Ribar with CMS. An invitation will be drafted and various methods for distributing the invitation will be discussed.